Dry Ice Safety

Dry Ice is solidified carbon dioxide which takes many forms: flakes, pellets, or block. As it sublimates, carbon dioxide gas is released into the environment displacing $O_2$ and generating a serious asphyxiation hazard with the dry ice bin. It is colorless/odorless and used refrigerate/freeze things.

**Precautions!!**
- Avoid inhaling/consuming dry ice.
- Do not place in airtight containers; container may explode due to carbon dioxide build up.
- Use in a well-ventilated area (i.e., fume hood) to minimize the build up of carbon dioxide.

**Proper Handling Procedures**
- Always wear personal protective equipment; Dry ice cause burns like frostbite!
- When getting dry ice, use the tongs or a scoop- do not reach far into the dry ice bin.
- Wear insulated (cryo-rated) gloves when breaking up the dry ice or handling it.

**How do I know that I’ve been exposed to carbon dioxide?**
- Start experiencing headaches and difficulty breathing.
- Longer exposure can lead to nausea and vomiting.

**How do I store dry ice?**
- Store in a well-ventilated area, not in an airtight container. This reduces the dangerous buildup of carbon dioxide gas that can be fatal to one that comes into the space.
- Do NOT store in cold rooms or walk-in freezers.

**How do I dispose dry ice?**
- Do not dispose in sewer, garbage disposal, garage chute, etc. Carbon dioxide gas can accumulate pressure.
- Allow dry ice to sublime naturally in a well-ventilated area.

Questions? Email safety@uci.edu or graduatesafetyteam@uci.edu